

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE TAVISTOCK RURAL
AREA FOR 1941

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit another interim Annual Report, this time for the year 1941. The year will remain a memorable one from the unprecedented influx of people from other areas; firstly official evacuees from London and Bristol and later on in the Spring following the Plymouth "blitz" a daily exodus from the City of many thousands of people. With regard to the latter, the first arrangements to cope with this sudden influx fell entirely upon the local resources of your Council and officials. Shelter of all descriptions was used by the evacuees at night-times, and owing to the whole-hearted work of the residents of the area, and particularly the Women's Voluntary Service, succour was afforded to the homeless, and a reasonable state of decency was very soon obtained. Following this a proper Rest Centre Organisation was very soon established, and is at the present time fully equipped and able to deal with a situation such as we had before - or worse.

Owing to this exceptional state of affairs much of the routine work of the Sanitary Department had to be abandoned. However, work was continued as far as practicable in relieving overcrowding where possible and removing nuisances in general, and in particular, several houses which were unfit for human habitation.

During the Autumn and Winter of 1940/41 a large house, Cample Haye, Lamerton, was prepared for use as an evacuee Sick Bay. It has accommodation for 30 beds. During the months following the Plymouth "blitz" this institution was put to great use and was at one time invaluable as being the only institution in the district which could be used to isolate infectious cases from Rest Centres etc. It has been used since as a Sick Bay, particularly for infectious skin conditions of evacuee children. Without the use of this Sick Bay the work of the health department would have been practically impossible.

The total births in the District showed an increase, but the birth rate a decrease - this owing to the population increase from 15,000 to 17,400. The deaths were greater than usual, but again the death rate was down from the same reason. The majority of deaths took place in people of a ripe age. As usual the principal causes of death were heart disease, cancer and cerebral haemorrhage.

Infectious diseases were not in great evidence but there were two minor epidemics of whooping cough and measles.

Hospital accommodation: A working arrangement with the City of Plymouth Isolation Hospital still obtains and in order to ensure isolation facilities in an emergency the Old School, at Fogginter, has been adapted as an Auxiliary Isolation Hospital, and is at the present time equipped and kept in readiness on a "bare and maintenance" basis.

Water supplied: Bore Alston water again gave considerable

concern owing to the large influx of people into the area from Plymouth. At the present time water engineers are preparing a scheme to either augment the present supply or provide a new one from a distance.

Tuberculosis: A very large increase in this disease occurred during the year. 22 new cases, as against 10 in the year previous, and 13 deaths as against 3 were recorded. This somewhat alarming increase is largely accounted for by the migration of tuberculosis subjects into this area. Co-operation of the billeting officer has been maintained to prevent, as far as possible, people being billeted where cases of this disease are known to be living.

Schools: All schools in the district were visited several times during the year, and appropriate steps taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. The following schools were closed on account of the named diseases:-

February 1941	St. Marytavy School	Measles and chicken-pox
February 1941	Gulwerthy School	Gastric influenza
February 1941	Chillaton School	Measles
March 11 1941	Coryton School	Measles
March 1941	St. Marytavy School	Measles and chicken-pox

The diphtheria immunization scheme was carried out with very gratifying results. The following table shows the percentages of the child population immunized up to the present time.

Under 5	23.4%	Between 5 and 15	86.7%
Approx. number of children in rural area at 30/8/42 under 5 years.	1,183	Approx. number of children in rural area between 5 and 15 years of age.	1,943

Six cases of diphtheria in the area occurred but none of these had been completely immunized. It is hoped that during the following year we shall have completed the immunization scheme.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population.	Registrar General	17,430
	Food Office	16,183

LIVE BIRTHS


	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	94	106	200
Illegitimate	2	4	6

206 Total.

Birth rate 11.8 per 1,000 resident population
England & Wales 14.2

Still births 6

Still birth rate 28 per 1,000 live & still births.



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<u>DEATHS</u>	Males	110
	Females	120
	230	Total

Death rate 13.2 per 1,000 population
Adjusted death rate }
England & Wales } Suspended

Deaths of infants under 1 year - 10
Death rate of infants under 1 year 48 per 1,000 live births
England & Wales " " " 59 " " "

AGE OF DEATH TABLE

<u>Age of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Infants under 1 year	6	4
1 - 5 years	2	4
5 - 15 "	0	0
15 - 25 "	4	2
25 - 35 "	6	4
35 - 45 "	4	5
45 - 55 "	6	8
55 - 65 "	13	15
65 - 75 "	20	28
Over 75 "	43	50
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	110	120

Total - 230

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH

Measles	0
Whooping Cough	0
Influenza	2
Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis of Resp. System	...	...	...	8
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	5
Cancer	...	...	...	33
Cerebral haemorrhage	...	...	...	31
Heart disease	...	...	...	47
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	5
Bronchitis	...	...	...	16
Pneumonia	...	...	...	8
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	0
Diseases of liver	...	...	...	0
Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	9
Diseases of Digestive system	...	...	...	9
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	1
Congenital debility prematurity	...	...	...	11
Senility	...	...	...	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	42

Total 230

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Typhoid	3
Scarlet Fever	7
Whooping Cough	47
Diphtheria	6
Erysipelas	4
Measles	85
Pneumonia	9
Puerperal pyrexia	2

Tuberculosis - New cases	22
Deaths	13

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

E.D. Allen-Price

M.C.H.

